

ELIAS COMMUNICATOR

Called by Christ, we live our faith in Word and Deed

October/November 2023



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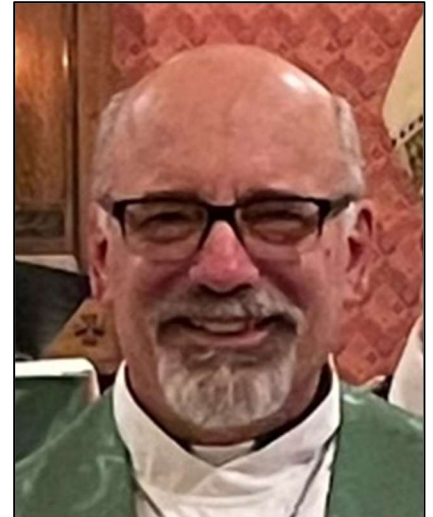
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From the **PASTOR**

Grace and peace to you - in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am not sure when this happened but sometime over the course of the past three months, I have become an optimist. You know those kinds of people: the ones that see the glass half full instead of half empty. I have become one of them. I understand that we at Elias are in a time of transition. After all, I've been your pastor for a grand total of three months as I write this. But still, I have hope. The reason I am hopeful is because I genuinely believe that God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, will continue to guide us as we strive to be messengers of the Good News of Jesus Christ in Emmitsburg.



My life verse is Jeremiah 29:11 *“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”* I believe that God has big plans for Elias Lutheran Church. I can see the small beginnings of growth in our church attendance – both in the Sunday and Wednesday morning services. A pleasant surprise has been the attendance of my brothers David and Danny and their wives Carrie and Marie to our Sunday morning services. I'm trusting that God will lead us as we live out Jesus' commandment to make disciples.

I also trust that through my many visitations on Mondays that those that cannot join us physically in church know that they are still a part of us. I cherish the time I get to spend with them as we celebrate communion together. I also cherish hearing their stories about their families – including their church family.

The COVID-19 pandemic may have caused many churches to reorganize and to think of new ways of doing ministry. Although change can be uncomfortable, the optimist in me thinks change can be a good thing. Maybe it is time to rethink how things were done in the past and cast a vision for the future. I am excited to see where God leads us!

Maybe I should make a correction and instead of calling myself an optimist I will call myself a believer in the one true God that can make all things possible. The same God that rose Jesus from the grave is the same God that can do amazing things in us and through us! I am looking forward to walking this journey with you.

In Christ,

Pastor Joe

Coming Events

Yard Sale/Soup 'n' Sandwich Sale

It seems hard to believe, but the time for another yard sale/soup 'n' sandwich sale is fast approaching. The next sale will be held on November 9, 10, and 11, opening at 9:00 AM each day and closing at 2:00 PM. The yard sale will include a little bit of everything, as usual; the soup 'n' sandwich sale will feature chicken corn soup, ham and bean soup, and vegetable beef soup, as well as chicken salad, ham salad, and ham-and-cheese sandwiches. There also will be a craft table and a bake sale with all sorts of home-made goodies.

There still is time to bring in materials for the yard sale, so that Connie Fisher and her helpers have time to get everything priced and laid out nicely. Please contact Connie if you have questions, or if you can help during the sale. Deb Zimmerman is heading up the soup-and-sandwich sale; contact her if you are available to help.

Prayer Hotline

For anonymous prayer support, call the Mother Seton Prayer Line: 866-202-4934.

Food 4 Kids

Food 4 Kids is available on the first and third Saturdays of each month, 9:30 AM - 12 noon, in the big Sunday School room. You may get a FREE bag of food consisting of 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 snacks and 4 drinks for each child up to 18 years old. Please share this information with anyone you think would benefit from this program.

W/ELCA

The ladies will gather in the dining room at 10:00 AM on October 17 and November 21 for Bible study, followed by a luncheon at 11:30 and then Bingo. Please bring a friend, your bible if coming to the Bible study, and a prize for Bingo.

Flower Charts

Flower charts for 2023 are in the back window of the sanctuary (pulpit side), and there are still open dates. Flowers for the altar are \$35.00. When paying, please indicate that the money is payment for flowers. This is a meaningful way to celebrate life events or honor those who are no longer with us.

Corner

Council

I was honored to have a small part in the installation of Pastor Joe as the 27th pastor of Elias on Saturday, September 23. We're looking forward to a long and prosperous partnership.

Some members of St. John in Thurmont may be worshipping with us on Sunday, October 15. Access to St. John will be severely limited that day because of Catoclin ColorFest, so they will not hold a service; their members may be coming to Elias instead. If you see visitors at Elias (that day or any day!), please make them welcome.

As we write this, the sale of the parsonage is just about complete. We're just waiting for the surveyor to submit his report, after which we can complete the sale; closing now is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3. As we have been doing all through the process, we will provide updates on Sunday mornings.

One of the components that make up a shared ministry between two or more Lutheran congregations is a joint steering committee. Each congregation keeps its own congregation council, but the joint steering committee coordinates activities (and handles problems, if necessary) between the congregations. We are in the process of setting up such a committee with St. John in Thurmont; if you would like to participate, please let me know.

Don't forget that the annual meeting is coming up at the end of January, and we're looking for people to join the Congregation Council. Please speak to any current council member if you would like to take part in the adventure.

Frank Schmearsal

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## Officers for 2023

- President .....Frank Schmearsal
- Vice President .....Cindy Rohrbaugh
- Secretary.....Deb Zimmerman
- Treasurer .....Cortney Wiles
- Deacons .....Nina Dolly, Bob Hampson, Judy Manahan, Matt Provance, Cindy Rohrbaugh, Frank Schmearsal, Nita Shank, Shaun Shriner, Deb Zimmerman

## Fall is Here!

Fall has come, again. So it's time to choose our Halloween costumes, and to rake the leaves, and to rake the leaves, and to rake the leaves! However, my ex-student Carlos obviously only had food in mind, at this time of the year, when he said, "I had a dream. I dreamed I was doing my homework, when all of a sudden another dream popped up. There I was eating Thanksgiving turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, and pie and ice cream. Well, this dream was just too good to waste, so I immediately stopped my homework dream."

Thanksgiving is coming, and I get to DO it! I say that, because I must always DO the same thing every year - - - cut up the fresh fruit, and seed the grapes for fruit salad! This is because people are afraid of my cooking, just because I poisoned my brother and my fiancé – only two people! I didn't know you can't thaw and refreeze, and thaw and refreeze orange juice when I gave this to my very sick brother when he visited me. The doctor ordered lots of liquids due to his diarrhea, but this just got worse! Also, I didn't know that pickled eggs had to be put into the refrigerator and not permanently left out. After all, they were preserved by being pickled, and I often saw them in large jars on counters in restaurants. I now know that they were put into the refrigerator each night! (Both of these men lived; however, my marvelous contractor, Dick Fisher, will never even accept a store-bought snack from me. I guess I can understand why.)

So, I was **never** asked to cook anything, and we always had a huge amount of my Homemade Fruit Salad. O course, I have come to realize that was to make sure that I did not have time to get near the kitchen. Luckily, my mother loved my Homemade Fruit Salad, and perhaps that is one reason why God brought me to her.

My mother was also grateful for my Chicken Soup when she was so, so, so sick in bed. It performed a miracle, as she got right out of bed! I must **not** have read the directions on the can correctly, as it was so awful that Mommy had to get up to cook. She was cured. My cooking did that!! Then, I told my mother that once I am married, if my husband agrees, so may come and stay long enough to teach me how to cook. But she quickly told me that she was not planning to spend the rest of her life there!

At this Thanksgiving time of year, I am so very thankful for God rescuing me from myself. I now have a microwave with only one button to push, so I do not need directions to cook my toasted muffin topped with hunks of cheese. I have that every night for dinner my merely changing the type of cheese. God helps us in many ways, and I am so thankful for God. Thank you, God, for You.

Mary-Elizabeth Buckham

# Called to *Serve*

## HEAD DEACONS

October – Judy Manahan

November – Shaun Shriner

## ALTAR CHAIRPERSONS

October – Harriet Buhrman

November – Renata Provance

## LECTORS

October 1 – Matt Provance

October 8 – Renata Provance

October 15 – Frank Schmersal

October 22 – Nita Shank

October 29 – Deb Zimmerman

November 5 – Nina Dolly

November 12 – Paul Harner

November 19 – Matt Provance

November 26 – Renata Provance

December 3 – Frank Schmersal



Participants in Pastor Joe's installation: (l-r) Rev. Christopher Litton, Rev. Robin Simpson Litton (assistant to the bishop), Rev. Kenneth Gill, Pastor Joe, Bishop William Gohl, Rev. Robert Day, Rev. Roland Hobbs. (Matthew Provance photo)

# Elias Lutheran Church Stewardship Report

## Facts and Figures



| Attendance                                        | 2023 |
|---------------------------------------------------|------|
| Total Sunday attendance through Sept. 17, 2023    | 1164 |
| Average Sunday attendance (38 services)           | 31   |
| Total Wednesday attendance through Sept. 20, 2023 | 320  |
| Average Wednesday attendance (32 services)        | 10   |
| Average weekly attendance                         | 41   |

### Pastor Joe's Schedule

Pastor Joe's schedule is as follows:

Monday – Elias home visits

Tuesday – at St. John, Thurmont

Wednesday – at Elias, Emmitsburg

Thursday – at Elias or working from home

Friday – off

Saturday – sermon preparation (at home)

Sunday – services at St. John and Elias, then off

He can be reached by the church phone at 301-447-6239, by his cell phone at 443-255-5229, or by email at [jherb1@yahoo.com](mailto:jherb1@yahoo.com).

**Deadline** for the October/November issue is **Sunday, November 19**

### *Elias Communicator*

is a bi-monthly newsletter of Elias Lutheran Church.

Services: **Sunday Worship – 10:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday School – 11:45 a.m.**  
**Wednesday Worship – 9:30 a.m.**

All are welcome to attend and share God's word.

We are located at  
 100 West North Ave.,  
 (P.O. Box 465)  
 Emmitsburg, MD  
 (301) 447 – 6239

E-mail: [eliasluth@gmail.com](mailto:eliasluth@gmail.com)

Website: [www.eliaslutheranchurch.org](http://www.eliaslutheranchurch.org)

Pastor: Rev. Joe Herb



ELIAS LUTHERAN CHURCH IS A PRAYING CONGREGATION. WE HOLD IN COMMUNAL PRAYER THE PEOPLE LISTED HERE AND THOSE IN OUR HOMES, WORKPLACES, AND COMMUNITIES.

### **Prayers for Healing:**

Elwood Carney, Shelby Fogus, Brenda George, Harry "Bub" Hahn, Linda Herb, Fred Hoff, George Hoffman, AJ, Dave Little, Dolly Long, Gene Stitely, Julie Sweeney, Dustin Winfield, and Sharon Winfield.

### **Ongoing Prayer Concerns:**

Nancy Andrew, Erma Bechtol, Alan Brauer, Harriet Buhrman, Brent Cluster, Rex Davis, Annie Eyler, Rosie Eyler, Dani Fink, Dick Fisher, Bev Frushour, Bob Frushour, Kathe Givler, Judy Hale, Paul Hoffman, Betty Leatherman, Annabelle Moffitt, Bobby Moser, Ronda Buhrman Olsen, Matthew (Pete) Shank, Linda Shields, Diane Shockey, Ernie Shriver, Kenny Slick, Richard Smith, and John Wilhelm.

### **For those serving in the Military:**

Logan Councillor, Jacob Fannin, Jimmy Hoffman, Nathan Jeffcoat, Noretta Kime, Lucas Mort, Austin Schaeffer, Ashley Shank, Gretal Shank, Kevin Shank, Sally Shank, Sam Shank, Jacob Whitney, and Kailey Williams.



### **Prayer shawls and blankets are available!**

If you know anyone, on this prayer list or not, who would benefit from a prayer shawl or prayer blanket, please contact Deb Zimmerman (717-334-8318).



## October 2023

| SUNDAY                                                                                               | MONDAY | TUESDAY                                                           | WEDNESDAY                                                         | THURSDAY | FRIDAY                        | SATURDAY                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <p>1</p> <p><b>10:30 – Holy Communion</b><br/>Lector: Matt Provance<br/>11:45 – Sunday School</p>    | 2      | <p>3</p> <p><b>CHURCH COUNCIL</b><br/>7:00 pm</p>                 | <p>4</p> <p><b>9:30 am – Holy Communion</b><br/>8:00 pm – AA</p>  | 5        | <p>6</p> <p>8:00 pm – AA</p>  | <p>7</p> <p>8:00 pm – AA</p>  |
| <p>8</p> <p><b>10:30 – Holy Communion</b><br/>Lector: Renata Provance<br/>11:45 – Sunday School</p>  | 9      | 10                                                                | <p>11</p> <p><b>9:30 am – Holy Communion</b><br/>8:00 pm – AA</p> | 12       | <p>13</p> <p>8:00 pm – AA</p> | <p>14</p> <p>8:00 pm – AA</p> |
| <p>15</p> <p><b>10:30 – Holy Communion</b><br/>Lector: Frank Schmersal<br/>11:45 – Sunday School</p> | 16     | <p>17</p> <p>10:00 am – Ladies’ Bible study, lunch, and Bingo</p> | <p>18</p> <p><b>9:30 am – Holy Communion</b><br/>8:00 pm – AA</p> | 19       | <p>20</p> <p>8:00 pm – AA</p> | <p>21</p> <p>8:00 pm – AA</p> |
| <p>22</p> <p><b>10:30 – Holy Communion</b><br/>Lector: Nita Shank<br/>11:45 – Sunday School</p>      | 23     | 24                                                                | <p>25</p> <p><b>9:30 am – Holy Communion</b><br/>8:00 pm – AA</p> | 26       | <p>27</p> <p>8:00 pm – AA</p> | <p>28</p> <p>8:00 pm – AA</p> |
| <p>29</p> <p><b>10:30 – Holy Communion</b><br/>Lector: Deb Zimmerman<br/>11:45 – Sunday School</p>   | 30     | 31                                                                |                                                                   |          |                               |                               |

## November 2023

| SUNDAY                                                                                      | MONDAY | TUESDAY                                                    | WEDNESDAY                                             | THURSDAY                                                  | FRIDAY                                                                         | SATURDAY                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                             |        |                                                            | 1<br><b>9:30 am – Holy Communion</b><br>8:00 pm – AA  | 2                                                         | 3<br><br>8:00 pm – AA                                                          | 4<br><br>8:00 pm – AA                                                          |
| 5<br><br><b>10:30 – Holy Communion</b><br>Lector: Nina Dolly<br>11:45 – Sunday School       | 6      | 7<br><br><b>CHURCH COUNCIL</b><br>7:00 pm                  | 8<br><b>9:30 am – Holy Communion</b><br>8:00 pm – AA  | 9<br>9:00 am – 2:00 pm – Yard Sale, Soup’n’ Sandwich Sale | 10<br>9:00 am – 2:00 pm – Yard Sale, Soup’n’ Sandwich Sale<br><br>8:00 pm – AA | 11<br>9:00 am – 2:00 pm – Yard Sale, Soup’n’ Sandwich Sale<br><br>8:00 pm – AA |
| 12<br><br><b>10:30 – Holy Communion</b><br>Lector: Paul Harner<br>11:45 – Sunday School     | 13     | 14                                                         | 15<br><b>9:30 am – Holy Communion</b><br>8:00 pm – AA | 16                                                        | 17<br><br>8:00 pm – AA                                                         | 18<br><br>8:00 pm – AA                                                         |
| 19<br><br><b>10:30 – Holy Communion</b><br>Lector: Matt Provance<br>11:45 – Sunday School   | 20     | 21<br><br>10:00 am – Ladies’ Bible study, lunch, and Bingo | 22<br><b>9:30 am – Holy Communion</b><br>8:00 pm – AA | 23<br>THANKSGIVING DAY                                    | 24<br><br>8:00 pm – AA                                                         | 25<br><br>8:00 pm – AA                                                         |
| 26<br><br><b>10:30 – Holy Communion</b><br>Lector: Renata Provance<br>11:45 – Sunday School | 27     | 28                                                         | 29<br><b>9:30 am – Holy Communion</b><br>8:00 pm – AA | 30                                                        |                                                                                |                                                                                |



**SEE YOU AT ELIAS...IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARE UNITED IN CHRIST OUR LORD**

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*Elías Communicator*  
P.O. Box 465  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727